

# Michael Marshall's correction and the story of Moses Orme

At the Request of Moses Orme the following Deed was Recorded November the 10. 1778 to wit: This Indenture made this thirtieth Day of July in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight between William Murdoch of Prince Georges County in the State of Maryland Merchant of the one part and Moses Orme of Montgomery County and Province aforesaid Planter of the other part Witnesseth that the said William Murdoch for and in consideration of the sum of four hundred and ninety two pounds twelve shillings and six pence Lawfull Money to me in hand paid or secured to be paid by him the said Moses Orme the receipt whereof he the said William Murdoch doth hereby acknowledge and himself therewith fully satisfied and paid doth by these presents exonerate acquit and discharge the said Moses Orme his heirs and Assigns hath given granted aliened bargained sold enfeoffed and confirmed and by these presents doth give grant alien sell enfeoff and confirm unto the said Moses Orme his heirs and Assigns for ever all that Tract or parcel of Land called Shawfield being part of a Tract of Land called Discovery beginning at the North West corner of said Discovery and running thence South two hundred and twenty four perches to a corner of John Coffers Land then East one hundred perches North forty five perches to a corner of Samuel Blackmores Land then East one hundred perches with said Land then North fifteen Degrees East one hundred and eighty eight perches to the out line of said Discovery then with a straight line to the beginning containing and now laid out for two hundred and eighty one and a half acres of Land more or less together with all the rights profits benefits and privileges thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to have and to hold unto him the said Moses Orme his heirs and Assigns for ever and to and for the only proper use and behoof of him the said Moses Orme his heirs and Assigns for ever and the said William Murdoch doth for himself his heirs Executors and Administrators covenant and agree to and with the said Moses Orme that he the said Moses Orme his heirs and Assigns shall and may for ever hereafter peaceably and quietly have hold use occupy and possess and enjoy all the aforesaid Tract or parcel of Land and premises with all and singular the appurtenances thereunto belonging or in any wise appertaining to the same and further the said William Murdoch doth for himself his heirs Executors and Administrators covenant and agree to and with the said Moses Orme his heirs and Assigns that he the said William Murdoch his heirs Executors or Administrators shall and will at all times hereafter warrant and forever defend all the aforesaid Tract of Land and premises unto the said Moses Orme his heirs and Assigns for ever  
( against )

Page 1 of deed between William Murdoch and Moses Orme in July 1778, via MDLANDREC


Recently, a man named Michael “Mike” Marshall, who is a transcriber/abstracter, and [evidently](#) the [owner](#)) for [a website](#) called Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginia’s Northern Neck Counties [commented on my blog](#), saying

RE: [4] Deed between William Murdoch and Moses Ouno, Montgomery County Court, Land Records, July 13, 1778, Liber A, p. 195, 196 [MSA CE 148-1]. Courtesy of mdlandrec.net. Not sure how pages of Liber D, 166 and 167 [MSA CE 148-4] relate to this topic as one source suggests.

=== Moses Ouno is Moses Orme

Montgomery County Land Records, 1777-1781; Liber A1, Page 195. Jul 30, 1778 from William Murdoch of Prince George’s County, merchant, to Moses Orme of M, planter, for 492 £ 12 shillings and 6 pence, a tract of land called Shawfield, being part of a tract of land called Discovery, bounded by John Coffee’s land, Samuel Blackmore’s land, containing and now laid out for about 281-1/2 acres. Signed – Will:m Murdoch. Wit – Chrisr Lowndes, Rd Henderson. This deed was ack. by William Murdoch in Prince George’s County. John Read Magruder, Clk, Prince George’s County, certified that sd Christopher Lowndes and Richard Henderson, Gentlemen, were JPs for sd County. Recorded Nov 10, 1778.

[I responded](#) by saying that I may have read the name wrong, then looked back at the deed itself, showing, yes, the name is Moses Orme, not Moses Ouno as I had written in a previous post. In that previous post, focusing on [the life of Benjamin Murdoch](#), a captain within the Extra Regiment of Maryland, I was referring to that fact that in Benjamin “later settled some of his deeds in Montgomery County in the Orphans Court with his relatives there reportedly,” hinting that the William Murdoch who “bought a part of a tract named Discovery from Moses Ouno” was related to Benjamin because he would buy this land “in later years.”

against all and all manner of persons that shall or may hereafter claim  
 right or title thereto and the said William Murdoch doth further covenant and  
 agree to and with the said Moses Orme his heirs and assigns that the said William  
 Murdoch his heirs Executors and Administrators shall and will at the reasonable  
 request and charge in the law of him the said Moses Orme his heirs or assigns  
 make do suffer any further or other Act or Deed which by the said Moses Orme  
 his heirs or assigns or his or their council lawned in the law may reasonably  
 devise advise or require according to the true intent and meaning of those  
 premises In Witness whereof the said William Murdoch hath hereunto set his  
 Hand and affixed his Seal the Day and Year first above written  
 Signed Sealed and Delivered in the presence of  Willm Murdoch  
 Chris Lowndes R<sup>d</sup> Henderson  
 On the Back of which Deed was thus endorsed to wit  
 Received July 30<sup>th</sup> 1778 from Moses Orme four hundred and ninety two pounds  
 twelve shillings and six pence current Money it being the consideration within  
 mentioned  
 Willm Murdoch  
 Witness Chris Lowndes R<sup>d</sup> Henderson  
 Prince Georges County 1<sup>st</sup> July 30<sup>th</sup> 1778 came William Murdoch before us two  
 of the Justices of Prince Georges County and acknowledged the within Instrument  
 of writing to be his Act and Deed and the land and premises therein mentioned  
 to be the right and Estate of Moses Orme his heirs and assigns forever according  
 to the true intent and meaning thereof and the Acts of Assembly in such cases  
 made and provided - Acknowledged before - Chris Lowndes R<sup>d</sup> Henderson  
 Maryland Prince Georges County In Testimony that Christopher Lowndes  
 and Richard Henderson Gentlemen before whom the above Acknowledgment  
 was made and who have thereto affixed their signatures were at the  
 time of taking and affixing the same and still are two of the Justices  
 of the Peace for the County a provided legally authorized Commissioners  
 and assigned and to all certificates by them so taken and signed  
 due faith and credit is and ought to be given as well in Justice Court as  
 thereout I have hereunto set my Hand and affixed the public Seal of my Office  
 this seventeenth Day of October seventeen hundred and seventy eight  
 John Read Magruder Clk of Prince Georges County Court

Page 2 of Deed between William Murdoch and Moses Orme, via MDLANDREC

The question that comes out of this is obvious: who is Moses Orme? Marshall's website  
 lists three men named Moses Orme. The first was [born](#) on Oct 31, 1755 in Prince George's  
 County, MD, and dying in November 1827 in Lewis County, Kentucky, and is likely [related to](#)

[another](#) (his father?) who was born in 1693 in Prince George's County, and had his probate on December 17, 1772 in the same country. While the first one could be him, he had no abstracted wills in Montgomery County. The [last Moses Orme does](#): he was born about 1730 in St. John's Parish, Prince George's County and had his probate in Rockville, Montgomery County Feb 12, 1782.

Abstracts on Orme's page, show that he had three sons (James, Moses, and Samuel Taylor), a wife named Priscilla (Verlinda [seems to be](#) his first spouse), eight daughters (Mary, Ursula, Verlinder, Rebecca, Harriet, Eleanor, Priscilla, and Charlotte). It also notes that when [he](#) wrote his will in 1772, he owned 100 acres, stock, and had at least eight enslaved Blacks, if not more (possibly four more), along with varying farm animals. He began such a lifestyle by buying, for "30 pounds sterling" a "portion of the two said tracts containing by approximation 50-1/2 acres" in 1761. By 1774, he gained more land through marriage. After his death, his son Moses, "sold by these presents part of a tract called "Taylorton" alias "Taylor's Rest" and containing 51 3/4 acres" which had been bought by his father in 1761. This Moses may be the same one living in Annapolis [by the 1830s](#).

Nothing else is currently known about [this man](#) except what is [written](#) by Florence Bayly DeWitt Howard for the Montgomery County Historical Society in 1994 (uploaded [here](#)), also noting the history of the Orme family in the area:

William Murdock Junior in 1778 conveyed Shawfield, "281.5 acres," to Moses Orme for 492 pounds 12 shillings 6 pence and in his will of 1782, Moses Orme gave "Shawfields known by the name Discovery" to his wife, Priscilla (Taylor) Orme during her widowhood, and after her death to his son James Orme. **Priscilla Orme was left with three sons, one married daughter and seven younger daughters, a large family.** It is not known exactly when the Ormes moved onto the tract Shawfield but Moses Orme is listed in the 1777 Montgomery County tax list in Rock Creek Hundred with four taxables. The early owners of Discovery were residents of present-day Prince George's County and had patented and purchased it as an investment, expecting that the land would increase in value as settlers moved into the area, which it did...In 1787 William Murdock Junior, who by this time was a merchant in London, executed a deed to Priscilla Orme and her son James, which stated that Moses Orme in his lifetime contracted to purchase 281.5 acres, part of the tracts "divided between brothers William and Benjamin

Murdock by virtue of a judgment in partition...all that part of said land so willed to him by his father William Murdock which was assigned to him upon the execution of the partition aforesaid.” Priscilla and James Orme had paid 500 pounds for the land and it was conveyed to them...Shawfield, the western half of the northern section of Beall and Edmonstons Discovery, was still the home of the Ormes at the time of the 1793 county tax assessment. Priscilla Orme was listed with 285 acres of Shawfield and eight slaves. By 1810, the land was assessed to her son, James Orme. James made his will in 1829, several years before his death in 1832, leaving Shawfield to his wife Rebecca during her lifetime and after her death to their three sons, Jeremiah, William and Patrick Addison Orme. He instructed his children to free his slaves when the female slaves reached the age of 30 and the male slaves at age 35. Rebecca Orme must have died by June 11, 1841, when William Orme and his wife Anna Maria Orme of Washington, D.C., Jeremiah Orme of George Town, D.C., and Patrick A. Orme and his wife Anna R. Orme of Baltimore sold the land. They conveyed, for \$2800, their 281.5 acres of Shawfield to Edward Stubbs...Although the conveyance from the sons of James Orme to Stubbs did not mention it, in 1827 James had sold one acre of Discovery, just inside its north line, to William Beckett for \$30, the deed stating that the land was commonly called “The Old Cabbin” and was “in the tenure of said William Beckett.”...Many families have lived on this land that was once Beall and Edmonstons Discovery: three generations of Ormes, four generations of Stubbs, and so many other families. Today the land belongs to the residents of Montgomery County and is visited by people from far and near. It has become our treasure and part of our heritage, to be cared for and enjoyed and passed on to future generations

We know from [other sources](#) that the Orme family lived in Montgomery country. We also know that Moses Orme, on the [pauper list in 1783](#), came a “well-known, financially stable” family, and was living “in the Lower Newfoundland district.”

That is all that is known, but it adds a little more to Maryland history.